

## HOLY THURSDAY 2013

**Theme: Eat the bread and drink the cup until he comes.**

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**"When you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the death of The Lord until he comes."**

How many times and in how many place has the bread been eaten and the cup been drunk and thus the death of the Lord proclaimed since our patron Paul wrote those words?

He wrote them to the fledgling community of Christians in the Greek city of Corinth where he had recent taught them **to eat the bread and drink the cup.**

Soon he would be **eating the bread and drinking that cup** secretly with Christians in Rome in underground catacombs as they hid from Nero's murderous sword.

Eventually, though, Christianity would spread through all the countries of Europe and North Africa but think of it:

Everywhere Christians were beginning **to eat the bread and drink the cup and to proclaim the death of The Lord Jesus until he comes.**

---In the villages and towns of Germany and Slovakia

---In thatch roofed homes of eastern Russia,

---In the towering gothic cathedrals of France,

---As the crusading armies marched on their bloody missions,

---When the Black Plague decimated the population of town after town,

Christians continued to gather **to eat the bread and drink the cup and proclaim the death of The Lord until he comes.**

As Columbus sailed to what they called the "new world" they **ate the bread and drank the cup aboard ship and on land.**

When St Francis de sales and Mateo Ricci and other missionaries taught the people of China and Japan and India and they too **proclaimed the death do The Lord.**

Even when the French explorers paddled their canoes down the Ohio River they brought their priests with them, and along the banks of the river, perhaps at the mouth of Harmon or Kings Creek, with a boulder as an altar table, **they ate the bread and drank the cup and proclaimed the death of The Lord.**

Just this week in a nursing home one do our oldest members was telling how her mother used to tell stories about the first catholic families of what became Weirton taking turns having Sunday mass in their homes well before a church was built:

**They ate and drank and proclaimed the death of The Lord.**

Some years ago I read the memoir of Terry Anderson, the American held hostage for six year in Lebanon by the terrorist group Hezbollah.

He told of how he and fellow captive Fr. Lawrence Jenco would hide a tiny morsel of bread from their dinner in a pocket just so they could celebrate Eucharist together at night when their captors were asleep.

Though they had no wine to drink, they still **broke the bread and proclaimed the death of the Lord until he comes.**

Anderson said this simple Eucharist gave them the strength and determination to get through the long imprisonment.

Today, ever since it became evening over on the International Dateline, this "Liturgy of the Lord's Supper" has been celebrated almost continuously and will be for several more hours yet:

...in every imaginable human tongue,

...in magnificent cathedrals and humble parish churches and tiny chapels,

...by our new pope, by tottering, lifelong Christians and by little ones who barely understand,

believers are **eating the bread and drinking the cup and proclaiming the death of The Lord until he comes again.**

Now, sisters and brothers, it is our turn.

Our turn to do what Jesus himself told us to do in his memory.

Our turn **to eat the bread and drink the cup** as Paul told the Corinthians to do and as Christians have been doing in every age and every place ever since.

Our turn, here and now, in our time and in this place, **to proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.**